

Application No.: 09/822,965

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Docket No.: 220002059710

REMARKS

Claims 14, and 18-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 19 has been amended without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Support for the amendment to claim 19 can be found, *inter alia*, throughout the specification, for example at page 31, lines 2-8. The amendments are made solely to promote prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. With respect to all amendments and canceled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Applicants thank Examiner Gupta for the telephone conversation with Applicants' representative regarding the Supplemental Amendment filed October 4, 2004 and the enclosed amendment.

The re-presentation of claim 19 as an independent claim is to more distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and to better place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment is does not raise new issues and respectfully request entry of this amendment.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all issues raised in the final Office Action have been properly addressed in this response. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would serve to facilitate resolution of any outstanding issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **220002059710**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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